

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 162675
ORIGIN NEA-07

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-----039717 131927Z /43

R 131607Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162675

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IN, BG, NP

SUBJECT: EASTERN WATERS STUDY

1. AS EMBASSIES ARE AWARE, THE POSSIBILITY OF LARGE SCALE
WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE GANGES/BRAHMAPUTRA BASIN
HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AND STUDY FOR A NUMBER OF
YEARS. LAST YEAR, THE WORLD BANK IN AN EFFORT TO SPUR
INDIA AND BANGLADESH TOWARD A LONG TERM SETTLEMENT OF THE
FARAKKA PROBLEM OFFERED TO FUND A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF
THIS TYPE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING UP-RIVER
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 162675

STORAGE FACILITIES IN NEPAL.

2. IN THE CONTEXT OF POSSIBLE INITIATIVES BY THE ADMINIS-
TRATION TO ASSIST THE THIRD WORLD, THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS
CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING AN INHOUSE RPT INHOUSE LOOK AT THE
FEASIBILITY OF SUCH AN EFFORT, INCLUDING TECHNICAL,
POLITICAL, AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF VARIOUS ALTER-

NATIVES.

3. WORD OF THIS STUDY, WHICH INVOLVES CONTACTS WITH THE WORLD BANK, MAY SURFACE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE ARE DOING AT THIS POINT. WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN INFORMING LOCAL EMBASSIES, IF ASKED WE INTEND TO RESPOND

THAT WE ARE MERELY TAKING A VERY PRELIMINARY LOOK AT THE FEASIBILITY OF VARIOUS SOLUTIONS TO THE OVERALL PROBLEM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN ENHANCED ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S. YOU SHOULD ALSO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS FROM HOST GOVERNMENT IN THIS LOW-KEY MANNER.

4. TASKING MEMO AND OTHER PERTINENT BACKGROUND PAPERS HAVE BEEN FASTPOUCHED. WE WILL CABLE YOU DRAFT OF STUDY FOR YOUR COMMENT WHEN THIS IS READY. IN THE MEANWHILE, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY IN-HOUSE THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO ATTITUDE OF HOST GOVERNMENT TOWARD A MULTINATIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT UNDERTAKING. WE SHALL BE LOOKING ALSO AT OPTION OF PROJECTS NOT NOW REQUIRING AGREEMENT BETWEEN OR AMONG RIPARIAN STATES, BUT WHICH WOULD BE CONSONANT WITH RATIONAL OVERALL CONCEPT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT AT THIS POINT WE CANNOT BE PRECISE EITHER ABOUT THE DETAILS OR THE OVERALL NATURE OF THE POSSIBLE UNDERTAKING. VANCE
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PAGE 03 STATE 162675

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